

Public Notice – Environmental Project

PURPOSE OF NOTICE:

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the State's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed activity in Dinwiddie and Prince George Counties, Virginia.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

September 4, 2007 to October 3, 2007

TYPE OF RESPONSE:

Federal Consistency Determination

DEQ is reviewing a Federal action to determine if it is consistent with the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act. The act seeks to protect the quality of air, water or other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT:

Department of the Interior, Federal Highway Administration

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The National Park Service (NPS) through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) (project proponent) proposes to relocate a portion of the Battlefield Park Tour Road (NPS Route 500) and the parking area at Fort Morton interpretive site out of the viewshed between The Crater and Fort Morton at Petersburg National Battlefield in the City of Petersburg. Three Alternatives are considered in the Environmental Assessment (EA), a No Build Alternative, and two Build Alternatives. Also included in the Build Alternatives are minor rehabilitations to various roadways, miscellaneous pavement marking repairs, and pedestrian trail constructions. The 1,800-foot bypassed portion of Park Tour Road and the 8,200 square foot old Fort Morton parking area would be obliterated (1.6 acres total) and contoured to blend in with the existing terrain. The relocated parking lot would have a similar geometric configuration to the existing parking area for the Crater interpretive site (Park Tour Stop 8), with eight passenger vehicle spaces, two handicap spaces, two bus parking spaces, and an approximate area of 6,400 square feet. Both Build Alternatives provide a new Fort Morton/Stop 7 Visitor Parking Lot. Additional actions included in either Build Alternatives would consist of rehabilitation/reconstruction of the Horse Trail Spur Road from Hickory Hill Road (Route 109) past the Park Headquarters and parking area to Horse Trail Spur Loop, the loop portion of the Horse Trail Spur Road past the Ranger Station back to Hickory Hill Road, and upgrading the former Hickory Hill Mobile Park access road and parking area into a new Hickory Hill Road Visitor Access 16 Road and Visitor Trailhead Parking Lot. Also, minor rehabilitation to the Park Tour Road Bridges over Norfolk-Southern Railroad and State Route 36, repair of failing roadway striping and markings, and the placement of additional bike-lane symbols on Park Tour Road would occur. A pedestrian trail from Hickory Hill Road Visitor Trailhead Parking Lot connecting to the park trail system is included, as is a pedestrian trail from the new Fort Morton/Stop 7 Visitor Parking Lot to Fort Morton. The Hickory Hill Road Visitor Trailhead Parking Lot would be used as a construction staging area for the project.

HOW TO COMMENT:

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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